

AERIAL RETARDANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The United States Forest Service (USFS) has released a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) for the continued nationwide aerial application of fire retardant on National Forest System lands and are currently soliciting comments from the public. Because history shows that wildland fires do not respect jurisdictional boundaries, management policies and guidelines adopted by the USFS directly impact local communities and fire agencies. Placing limitations to the current USFS policies and guidelines for the application of aerial retardant could potentially increase the size and cost of suppressing wildland fires that start in the Angeles National Forest.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department has reported to this Board that it is strongly opposed to additional limitations to the current USFS Aerial Retardant Guidelines because aerial retardant and gels have significantly assisted the suppression of a wildland incident by slowing the spread of the fire and giving fire fighters the ability to keep the fire small.

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MOTION

MOLINA	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five signature letter to the United States Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and Congressmen Kevin McCarthy, Buck McKeon, Adam Schiff and David Dreier, expressing Los Angeles County's serious concern with imposing any additional limitations to the current USFS Aerial Retardant Application Guidelines, including when the aerial application of retardant is authorized and where retardant can be applied from the air.

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